

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

April 12, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees

Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Tom Fattarusio	KN6BUY
Don Simon	NI6A
Natalie DeJarlais	KM6UCF
Annette McCoubrey	KJ6SWK
Diane Richwine	KK6RED
David Swanson	KJ6AAT
Marian Gade	KC6OBK
Jerry Michaels	K6KOP
Karen Leong Fenton	KK6ZPM
Jay Fenton	KJ6WSS
Blake Yeaman	KN6CMP
Susan Yeaman	KN6CMR
Frans Kuypers	KJ6IUV
Curt Smith	KM6HFT
Molly Ong	KF6ZNI
Kristen Gates	KM6TBG
Alvin Todd	KK6UQX
Martha Richards	KN6ELO
Michael Gold	AJ6RZ

Agenda:

Training session:

- Post event discussion of April 10 SET exercise

Business session:

Old business:

- Club callsign, originally KN6NMN, is now W6ECK
- report on status of qualification for club affiliation with ARRL
- report on advertisement (HRO) and classified listings in newsletter

New business:

- Comments on working with First Responders and Volunteers (Don NI6A)
 - Tech./Infrastructure
- retrieval/repair of EC Fire station equipment
 report on re-established KCC station, future patch box
 repair of EOC coax
 additional antennas/patch boxes in EC parks
 antenna from Chris Hilliard given to Rob
- Elmering
- antennas, power/SWR measurements, connectors/tools
- Treasurer/Funding
- Treasurer report
- Presentation on using GMRS radios given to KARO ECHO in fundraising
- Outreach/recruiting/web
- use of digital/social media
- Neighborhood nets and Comm. hubs
- 1st Wed., reports

Meeting called to order at 7:04.

A motion was made and seconded, the March meeting minutes were approved.
 (Approval of the meeting agenda was was not put to a vote in this meeting)

A motion was made to handle old business before the training session. The motion was seconded but was not carried.

Training session

Review of the April 10 SET:

- An audio recording of the traffic on 146.415 us available for listen to.

Successes:

- Shift changes for net control and EOC were successful.
- There was some FRS/GRMS participation.

Needs more work:

- Traffic was busy, improved efficiency should be worked on.
- One emergency message did not get relayed, a better procedure may be needed.
- Relaying is very important when working simplex. Net control may know who can hear who and arrange a relay operator but if not an operator who can quickly volunteer to do the relaying is important.
- When two operators are asked to move to a different frequency, making contact on the original frequency first is crucial. Some operators may have changed frequency before first making contact on the main net frequency first.
- Writing down the correct frequency to change to is crucial.
- Knowing how to use VFO mode quickly is very important. A suggested future

- exercise is to use VFO mode only for multiple frequency changes.
- The high number of transmissions made it difficult for operators to find a quiet space to report being back on the main net frequency.
- Single operators working both ham and GMRS frequencies at the same as an area com-hub reported that it was too difficult to do. If possible, one ham operator and one GMRS operator would be more successful.
- QST announcements for equipment or mutual aid need to be repeated multiple times.

Business session

Old business:

- The KE club callsign W6ECK that had been applied for has been obtained.
- KJ6IUV continues to research club affiliation with the ARRL and has volunteered to be the contact person. Clarification of what determines a club member is needed for the 51% ARRL members requirement.
- Whether HRO is interested in placing an ad in the KE newsletter, or whether club members can get a discount from HRO is still being investigated.

New business:

Report on working with first responders and disaster officials:

Finding out what first responders need is the most important point.

Technical / Infrastructure - BEE/NI6A

- EC City Hall Com. Center is still closed to the public for radio and cable work.
- An antenna has been put up at the KCC but a patch panel for an outside coax connection, a new battery, and a building key are still needed.
- Patchboxes are needed at the Harding and Tassajara locations.
- Cities may insist on UL approved, waterproof, or tamper proof patchboxes.
- A photo of a patchbox installation may aid approval by the city of Albany

Elmering - NI6A/BEE

- Assistance and tools are available for installing antennas, measuring power and SWR, and working with connectors. New members who may be reluctant to ask are encouraged to ask for assistance if needed.

Treasury/Funding - GIO

- The treasury report is in the KE newsletter.
- The plan for offering donated GMRS radios at a discounted price to neighborhood net members, with proceeds to benefit the treasury, was discussed.

Recruiting and Outreach - SWK

- There was no response from hams who were sent letters promoting KARO-ECHO.
- Some SET operators made their own fliers but there was not much interest from passerbyers this year. Single operators did not have much time to talk with people.
- The upcoming Field Day in June could generate some public interest.

Neighborhood nets, Communication hubs - not discussed this month

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10